

the gulf coast of Florida who have built tight plank platforms on piles at intervals from Tampa Bay to Cedar Keys, as I have observed, and very likely beyond those limits.

The eormorant although heavy of body and short of wing is an easy and swift flier. The flatness of the body, large tail area, and the shape of the head and neck result in a good "stream-line" proportion, all contributing to the ease of its flight. I never have seen a eormorant soar. The Anhinga whose body from the point of view of flight eharacteristics much resembles that of the eormorant is both swift in flight and accomplished in soaring. Anhingas often may be seen one or two thousand feet in the air over their eypress swamp retreats circling about on set wings as graefully as any hawk or vulture. Pelicans, espeecially the White Pelicans, do the same thing oecasionally.

In the eormorant nesting colonies the young, like young herons, will disgorge partly digested fish when alarmed by the presence of man, and the large size of such fish often is surprising.

JACKSON, MICHIGAN.

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## SPRING BIRD NOTES FROM RANDOLPH COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY FRANCIS HARPER

Ornithological literature for southwestern Georgia is so meager that even such a slight contribution as the present one may be helpful in filling some gaps in our knowledge of bird distribution in that part of the state. As far as I am aware, there is no general bird list available for any part of the "Red Hills" region of Georgia. This is a physiographic area or natural division extending across the state, a little below the fall line, from Augusta to Fort Gaines (and also into South Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi). It averages about thirty miles in width, and includes the greater part of Randolph County.<sup>1</sup>

I happened to spend the period from March 16 to April 18, 1921, on a farm about seven miles northeast of Cuthbert, the county seat. Meanwhile, though the amount of time devoted to ornithological observations was rather limited, I kept a daily list of the birds found in the dooryard and in the near-by fields and woods. This was a time of year when some of the winter residents still remained, while transients and summer residents were arriving from the south.

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<sup>1</sup>For a map and a further description of this region, see R. M. Harper, *School Sci. and Math.*, vol. 18, no. 8, Nov., 1918, p. 704; also *Georgia Hist. Quart.*, vol. 6, no. 2, July, 1922, p. 101.

The following list of fifty-three forms is made up approximately as follows: permanent residents, 29; winter residents, 9; summer residents, 13; transient visitants, 2.

BOB-WHITE. *Colinus virginianus virginianus*. A flock of half a dozen seen, April 4.

MOURNING DOVE. *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*. Seen or heard frequently, March 17 to April 16. Usually only one or two were noted at a time, but on April 3 there were fifteen in a single pasture.

TURKEY VULTURE. *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*. A flock of half a dozen on March 24 and 25, and a single bird on April 11.

BLACK VULTURE. *Coragyps urubu urubu*. About five flocking with half a dozen Turkey Vultures, March 25. One or two seen on other days, up to April 17.

MARSH HAWK. *Circus hudsonius*. A single bird near Cuthbert, April 18.

FLORIDA BARRED OWL. *Strix varia alleni*. One seen in a creek swamp, March 20; one hooting, April 5.

BELTED KINGFISHER. *Ceryle alcyon alcyon*. Noted a few times, March 22 to April 6.

SOUTHERN HAIRY WOODPECKER. *Dryobates villosus auduboni*. One, April 6.

SOUTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER. *Dryobates pubescens pubescens*. Several, March 20 and April 3.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. *Sphyrapicus varius varius*. One heard, March 26.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Single birds seen fairly often, March 20 to April 14.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. *Centurus carolinus*. Only a few seen, March 18 to April 16. One on the corner of a smokehouse gradually hitched down to a hen's nest in a box, where it pecked away at something, and was seen to "lick its chops." On going to investigate, I found in the nest a spoiled, broken egg. It may have been broken originally by some other agency than the woodpecker, but the latter was evidently feeding on it.

FLICKER. *Colaptes auratus* subsp. One, March 18.

KINGBIRD. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. One or two seen frequently, April 5 to 16.

WOOD PEWEE. *Myiochanes virens*. Several, in song, April 17.

FLORIDA BLUE JAY. *Cyanocitta cristata cristata*. These familiar and noisy birds of the dooryard were seen in small numbers almost daily, March 17 to April 17. One was carrying nesting material on April 4. On one occasion several Blue Jays and English Sparrows worried a half-tame young Gray Squirrel in an oak tree in the yard. Two of the jays were collected.

CROW. *Corvus brachyrhynchos* subsp. Found in small numbers, March 18 to April 15.

SOUTHERN MEADOWLARK. *Sturnella magna argutula*. Small numbers noted, March 20 to April 3; a flock of about twelve on March 21.

ORCHARD ORIOLE. *Icterus spurius*. A male in song noted nearly every day, April 11 to 16.

HOUSE SPARROW. *Passer domesticus domesticus*. Some nearly always in evidence.

VESPER SPARROW. *Pooecetes gramineus gramineus*. Small numbers recorded, March 17 to April 2. Since these birds were apparently not in song, is it not possible that the males had already departed for the north, and that only females remained at this season?

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. Four or five in a band noted on several occasions, March 22 to April 5.

CHIPPING SPARROW. *Spizella passerina passerina*. A few silent birds seen from March 20 to April 7, including a flock of about ten on April 6. Finally one in song on April 17. To judge by the distribution of the species in Alabama (cf. Howell, "Birds of Alabama," p. 239), Randolph County is probably close to the southern limit of its breeding range in Georgia.

FIELD SPARROW. *Spizella pusilla pusilla*. Single birds seen, March 20 and April 6.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW. *Peucaea aestivalis bachmani*. A male collected on March 26 in an old field; another heard singing on April 6.

CHEWINK. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*. A male or two, with reddish eyes and with the call-note of northern birds, found on April 5 among deciduous undergrowth in pine woods. Probably the form described by Howell (*Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.*, vol. 26, 1913, p. 202) as *canaster*.

CARDINAL. *Cardinalis cardinalis cardinalis*. One or more noted rather frequently, March 16 to April 10.

SUMMER TANAGER. *Piranga rubra rubra*. A few noted, April 10 to 17.

PURPLE MARTIN. *Progne subis subis*. Small numbers present, March 25 to April 18.

CEDAR WAXWING. *Bombycilla cedrorum*. Flocks of four to thirty individuals seen rather commonly, March 30 to April 15.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE. *Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus*. One or two were seen very frequently from March 18 to April 18. A song heard on March 19 strangely suggested the Rusty Blackbird's note. On March 25 a nest in a pear tree in a garden contained four eggs. It was situated near the trunk at a height of eight or ten feet above the ground. It was composed in part of grass, and was lined with chicken feathers. There was said to have been a nest in about the same place the previous year. A sitting bird was noticed on March 30, but within a week thereafter the nest was empty—possibly rifled by Blue Jays.

In flight the Loggerhead's tail shakes vertically, reminding one of some of the European wagtails (*Motacilla* spp.).

Boys of the neighborhood called this species "French Mocker," being apparently quite unacquainted with the name of "Butcherbird."

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO. *Lanivireo flavifrons*. Several noted in song, April 3 and 7.

WHITE-EYED VIREO. *Vireo griseus griseus*. Single birds seen, March 20 and April 6.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER. *Mniotilta varia*. A few birds, in song, March 20 to April 6.

PARULA WARBLER. *Compothlypis americana americana*. Single birds, in song, March 20 and 27, and April 3.

MYRTLE WARBLER. *Dendroica coronata coronata*. Noted from March 17 to April 6, usually in very limited numbers, though about twenty were seen on March 20 and again on April 3. Up to March 20, at least, no males in breeding dress were observed. A specimen was collected on April 1.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER. *Dendroica dominica dominica*. Single birds, in song, March 20 and 22, and April 3.

PINE WARBLER. *Dendroica vigorsi*. Noted commonly from March 20 to April 17; in song throughout this period.

PALM WARBLER. *Dendroica palmarum palmarum*. Individuals and small bands of not more than five individuals, April 6 to 18. Apparently all of those observed, including a specimen collected, were



of the present subspecies. On April 27 one sang a sprightly, gurgling lay from a perch about forty feet up in an oak.

LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH. *Seiurus motacilla*. One or two noted on a number of days from March 20 to April 17; in song throughout this period, and very likely nesting by the last-mentioned date. The birds frequented a patch of lowland woods, with a small stream running through it. If they actually did breed here, it would probably constitute the southernmost record for the state.

FLORIDA YELLOWTHROAT. *Geothlypis trichas ignota*. Song heard on March 16 and 20. To judge by the migration dates in Alabama (cf. Howell, "Birds of Alabama," 1924, pp. 317-320), *ignota* would be the form most likely to occur here in the middle of March.

HOODED WARBLER. *Wilsonia citrina*. Present in small numbers, and singing, March 27 to April 17.

MOCKINGBIRD. *Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*. Very common; seen and heard singing practically every day, March 17 to April 18.

BROWN THRASHER. *Toxostoma rufum*. A few observed, March 20 to April 18.

CAROLINA WREN. *Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*. Common, March 17 to April 6.

FLORIDA WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. *Sitta carolinensis atkinsi*. One heard, March 20.

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH. *Sitta pusilla*. Noted a few times from March 29 to April 17.

About 5 P. M. on April 10 I noticed a number of Brown-headed Nuthatches among some pines in an old field. Presently three or four of them huddled together a couple of feet from the tip of a long limb thirty-five feet from the ground. The limb was well provided with twigs and needles. Then a couple of others began visiting those lined up on the limb, and feeding them. I was astounded to realize that fledglings were abroad thus early in the season. Sometimes the adults passed over the food from a perch on the same level, but about as often as not they clung to the under side of the limb in acrobat fashion and fed the youngsters from below.

By degrees several more came and lined up on the limb, till there were finally six, if not seven, all touching each other in close array. Some faced in one direction, some in the other. They kept up a gentle, musical twittering. The adults often gave their loudest call (a nasal, twanging *knee-tee; knee-tee-tee*) as they searched

the pine cones, limbs, and trunks for food. They also gave, while so engaged, a much lower, conversational note: *pik*. Once in a while one of them would hammer some piece of food on a limb, in the manner of one of the larger species of nuthatches.

Up to about 5:30 P. M. the old birds fed the youngsters assiduously, returning every half minute or so. Then, when the latter were pretty well quieted, though the sun had scarcely set, the old birds disappeared for some minutes. Eventually they returned, but did not go to the young ones, merely feeding industriously in the adjacent trees. All this was so like a human family, where the babies are given an early supper and put to bed, after which the parents can attend to some of their own wants.

I waited till after six o'clock to see if the adults might not join their brood, but apparently that was not their intention. Toward the last one of them flew to the same limb a couple of yards away, and thereafter I lost sight of both of them, but felt quite certain that neither joined the group of young ones. It was then after sunset, and the birds were undoubtedly established for the night. It seemed strange that a hole-nesting species should roost thus in the open.

TUFTED TITMOUSE. *Baeolophus bicolor*. A few, March 20 to April 17.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE. *Penthestes carolinensis carolinensis*. A few, March 20 to April 3.

RUBY-CROWNED KINCLLET. *Regulus calendula calendula*. Noted in song on a number of days from March 20 to April 6.

BLUE-CRAY GNATCATCHER. *Polioptila caerulea caerulea*. Several noted, March 17 to April 3; in song on the first-mentioned date.

HERMIT THRUSH. *Hylocichla guttata pallasii*. One seen, March 26.

BLUEBIRD. *Sialia sialis sialis*. Seen very frequently, but in small numbers, March 17 to April 12. A nest in a fence-post contained four eggs on March 30.

NATICK. MASS.